

1 CLAIM LISTING

2 1-14 Canceled

3 15. (Currently Amended) A riding stirrup suspended from a western equestrian saddle, the  
4 riding stirrup comprising:

- 5 (a) a hanger rod adapted to be received in stirrup feathers for suspending the stirrup  
6 from a western equestrian saddle;
- 7 (b) a stirrup loop connected to the hanger rod at both ends of the hanger rod and  
8 defining a stirrup opening;
- 9 (c) an elongated base support tread at a bottom portion of the stirrup loop and spaced  
10 apart from the hanger rod, the elongated base support tread having [[a]] an upper  
11 surface with a longitudinal center axis extending at a slant with respect to a stirrup  
12 centerline, the stirrup centerline extending substantially perpendicular to the  
13 hanger rod, substantially through a mid point of the hanger rod, and through the  
14 upper surface of the elongated base support tread being approximately centered on  
15 the stirrup centerline; and
- 16 (d) wherein the upper surface of the elongated base support tread is slanted with  
17 respect to the hanger rod such that the shortest distance between an inner tread  
18 end of the elongated base support tread and the longitudinal axis of the hanger rod  
19 is less than the shortest distance between an outer tread end of the elongated base  
20 support tread and the longitudinal axis of the hanger rod, and such that the upper  
21 surface of the elongated base support member slopes downwardly away from a  
22 position of a horse under the saddle.

- 1       16. (Currently Amended) The riding stirrup according to Claim 15 wherein:
- 2           (a) [[an]] the upper surface of the elongated base support tread defines an inner angle  
3                          with the stirrup centerline at an inward side of the stirrup centerline;  
4           (b) the upper surface of the elongated base support tread defines an outer angle with  
5                          the stirrup centerline at an outward side of the stirrup centerline; and  
6           (c) the inner angle is less than the outer angle.
- 7
- 8       17. (Previously Presented) The riding stirrup according to claim 16 wherein the outer angle  
9                  comprises an obtuse angle and the inner angle comprises an acute angle.
- 10
- 11      18. (Previously Presented) The riding stirrup according to claim 17 wherein the upper surface  
12                  of the elongated base support tread is substantially planar.
- 13
- 14      19. (Currently Amended) The riding stirrup according to Claim 15 further including:
- 15           (a) an interior side member connected to the hanger rod; and  
16           (b) an exterior side member connected to the hanger rod, the exterior side member  
17                          being longer than the interior side member; and  
18           (c) wherein a lower portion of the interior side member diverges from a lower portion  
19                          of the exterior side member along the stirrup centerline in the direction from the  
20                  hanger rod to the elongated base support tread.
- 21
- 22      20. Canceled

1        21. (New) The riding stirrup according to claim 15 wherein the upper surface of the elongated  
2           base support tread extends substantially parallel to a lower surface of the elongated base  
3           support tread.

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5        22. (New) A western equestrian saddle including:

6           (a)     a first stirrup including,

7                 (i)    a first hanger rod received in first stirrup leathers depending from the  
8                   saddle, a first stirrup centerline extending substantially perpendicular to  
9                   the first hanger rod through a mid point of the first hanger rod,

10                (ii)    a first stirrup loop connected to the first hanger rod at both ends of the first  
11                  hanger rod and defining a first stirrup opening,

12                (iii)   a first elongated base support tread at a bottom portion of the first stirrup  
13                  loop and spaced apart from the first hanger rod, the first elongated base  
14                  support tread having an upper surface that is approximately centered on  
15                  the first stirrup centerline, and is slanted with respect to the first stirrup  
16                  centerline such that the shortest distance between an inner tread end of the  
17                  first elongated base support tread and the longitudinal axis of the first  
18                  hanger rod is less than the shortest distance between an outer tread end of  
19                  the first elongated base support tread and the longitudinal axis of the first  
20                  hanger rod;

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1 23. (New) The saddle of claim 22 wherein:

- (a) the upper surface of the first elongated base support tread extends substantially parallel to a lower surface of the first elongated base support tread; and
- (b) the upper surface of the second elongated base support tread extends substantially parallel to a lower surface of the first elongated base support tread.

7 24. (New) The saddle of claim 22 wherein:

- (a) the first stirrup loop includes an interior side member extending between the first hanger rod and the first elongated base support tread and an exterior side member extending between the first hanger rode and the first elongated base support tread, the interior side member of the first stirrup loop being shorter than the exterior side member of the first stirrup loop; and
- (b) the second stirrup loop includes an interior side member extending between the second hanger rod and the second elongated base support tread and an exterior side member extending between the second hanger rode and the second elongated base support tread, the interior side member of the second stirrup loop being shorter than the exterior side member of the second stirrup loop.

19 25. (New ) A method for providing a support surface for a rider's foot in connection with the  
20 use of a western equestrian saddle, the method including:

- 1                   (a) suspending a hanger rod from the saddle at a first lateral side of the saddle, a  
2                   stirrup centerline extending substantially perpendicular to the hanger rod through  
3                   a mid point of the hanger rod;
- 4                   (b) supporting a stirrup loop from the hanger rod, the stirrup loop having a support  
5                   surface defined therein, the support surface being slanted with respect to the  
6                   stirrup centerline so that the support surface faces away from the saddle when the  
7                   stirrup loop is in an operating position, and wherein the support surface is  
8                   approximately centered on the stirrup centerline.
- 9
- 10
- 11                 26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein supporting the stirrup loop includes supporting  
12                 an elongated base support tread which forms a bottom portion of the stirrup loop and  
13                 wherein the support surface comprises an upper surface of the elongated base support  
14                 tread.
- 15
- 16                 27. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein supporting the stirrup loop includes supporting  
17                 an interior side of the stirrup loop and an exterior side of the stirrup loop, the interior side  
18                 of the stirrup loop and exterior side of the stirrup loop each extending from the hanger rod  
19                 to a respective end of the elongated base support tread, and wherein the interior side of  
20                 the stirrup loop is shorter than the exterior side of the stirrup loop and faces toward the  
21                 saddle when the stirrup loop is in the operating position.
- 22

- 1        28. (New) A stirrup suspended from a western equestrian saddle, the stirrup comprising:
- 2            (a) a hanger rod suspended from the saddle at a first lateral side of the saddle;
- 3            (b) a stirrup loop connected to the hanger rod, the stirrup loop including a base
- 4            support tread spaced apart from the hanger rod, an interior side extending from the
- 5            hanger rod to a first end of the base support tread, and an exterior side extending
- 6            from the hanger rod to a second end of the base support tread, the interior side
- 7            being shorter than the exterior side so that an upper surface the base support tread
- 8            is slanted with respect to the hanger rod, and the interior side being positioned so
- 9            that the upper surface of the base support tread faces away from the saddle.
- 10
- 11        29. (New) The stirrup of claim 28 wherein the base support tread includes a lower surface
- 12            that extends substantially parallel to the upper surface of the base support tread.